

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1912.

Russia's Double Celebration
Brings Amnesty to ThousandsSignificance of Centenary of
France's Defeat and Ter-
centenary of Ro-
manoff Rule.

RUSSIA'S preparations to celebrate this year the centenary of the French invasion by Napoleon, his defeat and his disastrous retreat from Moscow, which had been set on fire by the Muscovites themselves in order to prevent him from making the city his winter quarters, as proposed, remind me

prompted in putting forward the candidature of the lad by the virtues of the young fellow's father, the Archbishop and Metropolitan, Theodore, and partly, too, because of the boy's descent through the female line, it is true, from Rurik.

The dynasty of that Scandinavian contemporary of the English King Alfred the Great, and who by establishing himself as Grand Prince of Novgorod may be said to have been the first of all Russian rulers, became extinct in the male line, with Czar Feodor, in 1598. Feodor was the son of Ivan the Terrible, and Ivan's sister Anastasia had married Nicetas Romanoff. The offspring of this union was the Archbishop and Metro-

noble birth, he divorced, while the son she bore him was put to death for treason, some say by Peter's own hand. This son had married Charlotte, Princess of Brunswick. After she had given birth to a son (who eventually succeeded to the throne as Peter III) Charlotte was officially announced to have succumbed to a sudden illness, but is known to have escaped to America with a German officer in the service of her father-in-law and to have spent the remaining years of her life in peace and happiness in Louisiana, she and her second and German husband finding their last resting place not far from New Orleans, while her son by her previous marriage with the ill-fated Czarévitch, succeeded his grandfather, Peter the Great, under the title of Peter II.

NATION'S DEBT TO ROMANOFFS.

It is fitting, on the whole, that Russia should celebrate the third centenary of Michael Romanoff's election to the throne of Russia by official and popular rejoicing, for the nation owes a great debt to the Romanoffs, a fact which is too often overlooked. In the days when Jamestown and other American cities were founded Russia was still steeped in the worst form of Oriental barbarism, and she remained an Asiatic rather than a European power when all the arts of civilization flourished in France under Louis XIV. It is under the direction and guidance of the Romanoffs that these Tartars have been transformed in a little under two centuries from a conglomeration of Asiatic tribes into a great European nation, and from a despotism more oppressive and barbarous than those of the recent Chinese emperors into a constitutional monarchy. It is the Romanoffs, in one word, who have turned the face of Russia from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Perhaps the most notable feature of this double celebration now at hand in Russia—namely, that of the centenary of the victory over the French and of the tercentenary of Romanoff rule—will be the wholesale amnesty of criminal, military and particularly of political offenders, which will be granted by the Emperor. Many thousands will have their sentences reduced, their punishments commuted, or else will receive a free pardon. Refugees in this country will be free to return to the land of their birth in safety, and it is no exaggeration to state that tens of thousands of Siberian exiles will be restored to freedom and to their families. Nicholas II is having the list of those who are to become the objects of his clemency personally prepared for him by his own confidential agents, whom he can trust; that is to say, by the men who since the war with Japan have been devoting all their time under his personal direction and authority to the investigation and punishment of official corruption, dishonesty and malfeasance, especially among the higher dignitaries. In fact, the Czar is taking every conceivable precaution to have the amnesty benefit the people whom he has in view, without regard to the government departments and to that bureaucracy which is the curse of Russia. It is estimated that this will be the last amnesty of the present reign, the first having been granted on the occasion of the birth of the Czarévitch.

AMNESTIES OF RARE OCCURRENCE

Amnesties are few and far between, especially those which restore to the benefited the rights of citizenship. Napoleon III granted an amnesty to all political offenders at the close of his victorious campaign in Italy in 1859, and his uncle, the first Emperor of the French, issued a similar amnesty after his return from Elba. The present French Republic, on the recommendation of Gambetta, issued in January, 1879, an amnesty in favor of the 2,245 men and women sentenced to various forms of penal servitude for their participation in the Commune insurrection of 1871, one of the persons thus benefited being Camille Barrere, to-day French Ambassador to Rome.

England has enacted four amnesties, namely, at the time of the Stuart restoration, in 1661, and after the two Jacobite rebellions, in 1715 and 1745, and again in 1903 to the Boers. Emperor Francis Joseph granted an amnesty in 1897 to all those concerned in the Hungarian insurrection of 1849, one of its leaders, Count Julius Andrássy, who had escaped the gallows only by flight, subsequently being appointed by him to the Chancellorship of the Dual Empire.

Here in the United States amnesties were granted in 1865 and again in 1871 to all those concerned in the Confederate struggle against the Union. And, thanks to this, Confederate statesmen and soldiers have developed into staunch champions of Uncle Sam, and have achieved distinction by the brilliancy of their services to the United States. It was the amnesty, in fact, that rendered it possible for President McKinley to intrust the command of the cavalry in the brief but successful war with Spain to that gallant ex-Confederate general, "Joe" Wheeler.

A BLOW TO RUSSIAN NOBILITY.

Alexis was succeeded by his eldest son, Feodor, who, although reputed a man of weak mentality, inflicted one of the most crushing blows upon the Muscovite nobility ever sustained by the aristocracy of any country. Up to that time no noble could take any office which was inferior to the one which his ancestors had held or could accept a place subordinate to any one who had fewer forebears than himself. This question of ancestry and of pedigree led to interminable quarrels both at court and in camp, so much so that Czar Feodor at length invited all the families of the aristocracy to deliver up to him their pedigrees, patents and papers for examination and registration. Having obtained possession thereof, he convoked the nobles and, assisted by the clergy, caused the documents to be burned before their eyes. Thanks to this, there are no family documents, nobiliary patents, etc., in Russia which go back beyond the reign of Czar Feodor, and any claim to ancestry more remote can only be based on purely circumstantial evidence; that is to say, on historical records in which the names and dignities of the parties are mentioned.

Feodor died unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother, Ivan V, who was followed in turn by his stepbrother, Peter the Great. Peter was twice married; his first wife, Eudoxia, a lady of

FIGHTING FOR FRANCE

An American Engineer in the
Franco-German War.

FOUND IT HARD TO ENLIST

Long Strife Wasn't Expected,
but He Had Opportunity for
Much Active Service.

A record of veterans of the French army and navy who served in the Franco-German War and who live in New York and New Jersey was made up for Battle Day this year and gave the number as 5,534. All these veterans are entitled to a medal under a recent act of the French Republic. One of the resident survivors is an American, W. D. Forbes, a mechanical engineer. He is a native of Perth Amboy, N. J. At the outbreak of the war he was a student at a technical institute in Paris. He volunteered his services, but found difficulty in being accepted because the opinion of the officers was that the army would be in Berlin in a month and that not more than two-thirds of the armed forces would be used in conquering Prussia and her confederates in the German states. France expected that Italy and Austria would aid her and that Denmark would lend its navy and a few troops.

Through Louis Blanc young Forbes got into the service in a company of scouts and sharpshooters. In speaking of his experiences to a reporter the other day Mr. Forbes said: "The object for which companies like that of which I was a member was organized was to operate well forward and develop the enemy and then retire. As matters turned out, however, the enemy invariably developed us, but the companies were useful in scouting and acquiring a great deal of sound information. At one time my company was sixty miles in the rear of the Germans operating against Strasbourg. The French rifles were far better than the Prussian needleguns. The chassepot had a much greater effective range and was easily kept in order. Our fellows could always kill many of the enemy with rifles before they could get a bullet among us. The German artillery had a longer range than ours, but it was not so well served. While the Germans fired four shots our fellows fired six or seven."

"In taking villages from the Germans we always used rifles or bayonets, and sometimes both. We rarely failed to drive the Germans out, but in most cases they got back again by shelling us out with artillery. Our machine guns were in good condition and were admirably served. In one battle the 1st Regiment of Brandenburg Grenadiers lost 51 per cent of its men in charging against machine guns. Most of them were killed as soon as they got within our range."

"The French ammunition was good and so were the uniforms, but there were gross frauds in most of the departments that sent out supplies. In several cases of rifles which I saw unpacked for serving to men on the eve of battle there was a top layer of rifles, the rest of the space was filled with bricks. One department of great value to the French was the intelligence bureau. The officers and men who belonged to it had yellow badges and each platoon bore a yellow flag, which meant 'Information Patrol.' It worked this way: A regiment, marching along and met some one from the intelligence department, who told them they would find good water at such a place or hot chocolate or coffee at this or that place. It then was the duty of the intelligence department man to guide them where they wished to be for refreshing the men."

"In hundreds of ways the information men made themselves of great use to the army. They had perfected maps and knew all the roads. The stories that French generals had no maps and were often lost in their own country never had any foundation in fact. The Germans used French maps throughout their campaign and found them accurate. It often happened in my company and battalion that we came to a new village, the names of which we did not know. That was because it was no part of our business to study maps; we were feeling the lines of the enemy's communications and taking shots at the German scouts."

"Despite the hard fortune of the French army, the men and inferior officers were always in good spirits and made lots of fun at the encampments. Most of the officers were of the kind who said: 'Follow me, boys,' rather than 'Go forward, boys.' The marching was rapid, and after the men had walked two or three miles they were ordered to take to the stocks on the right foot and put it on the left foot and change the other stocking, then shake the shoes well to free them from pebbles or dust. Then they were ordered to loosen their shirts and waistbands and then recline upon the ground for a few minutes and eat something. The result was that the men were wonderfully refreshed and went forward at a good pace."

"I made a part of the practice march from Marseilles to Havre recently with a brigade that did the march in record time. I turned into the line at Rouen and went I know not how far. I noticed that the men were just as intelligent and martial as the men were in the time of the Franco-German war. The soldiers still followed the custom of loosening their uniforms and taking off their shoes for a rest along the line of march. As in my days in the French army, there were lots of good singing and much cutting up when the commands were marched at ease, and the old French custom of perfect good fellowship between officers and men was still in vogue. Just step into the nearest jewelry store and ask their lowest price for a SOLID 14K GOLD watch, and you will realize what this offer means to you. Every one will be sold with the discount understanding that if they could in a hard campaign, did all that they could to induce some of the French officers high in command to adopt ideas that served well in the American Civil War. The French and the German military academies possessed most exhaustive reports upon the new ideas in warfare that were brought into being by the ablest men in the contending armies in that war. Although the Germans made use of that information, the older officers of the French army seemed to think that battles were to be won by the method employed in the time of Napoleon the Great. Napoleon wasting half a day at Waterloo waiting for the field to harden to waterloo, because he was always the artilleryman and made much of the moral effect of noise and smoke in confusing the enemy, and Ney wasting four hours and many squadrons in trying to break the enemy's centre at Waterloo, were errors that were repeated in certain instances by several of the older generals of the French army in 1871."

General De Galliffé was thoroughly informed about the methods of fighting with cavalry that were developed in our civil war. He was a very able officer, and his seven consecutive charges against the ever narrowing cordon that entangled the French at Sedan is one of the most glorious

achievements by cavalry in modern days. One bit of stupidity by a French fossilized commander was in ordering the capable and brave American born Colonel Jerome Bonaparte to confine his splendid regiment of cavalry in a fortress. Our Lieutenant General Sheridan met Bonaparte one day and asked him why he had been sent to a fortress instead of raiding the enemy's lines. The answer was: "To eat our horses. I suppose, at any rate, we had to live by eating our animals."

STRANGE BEDS.

Habit conceals all sorts of absurdities. It makes one ache to see an illustration of a Japanese sleeping block, hollowed out just enough to permit of the neck being adjusted thereto. The Germans' notion of night repose does not come much nearer our idea of comfort. There are many ill made and unsatisfactory beds (from the American point of view) to be found in the Kaiser's dominions.

German beds, almost without exception, are single—so much so, indeed, that the occupant, if he attempts to deviate an inch or two from his position, finds himself sprawling on the floor. The sheets, bed blankets, etc., are made just to fit the beds, and are never wide enough to tuck in. They are seldom more than an inch or two wider than the mattress, and it requires the skill and experience of an acrobat, especially in the case of a foreigner, to keep the bedclothes evenly balanced over one.

Many of the German hotels use the French pillow, which is about half the size of the mattress and stuffed out so hard and plump that about the only benefit the tired traveler gets from it is to have it serve as a rest for his back while he sleeps in a sitting position. The majority of pillows found in Germany, however, are wedge-shaped, of the same material as the mattress, and come to a point near the centre of the bed. On these the sleeper (if he sleeps) rests on the middle of his back like a body on one of the narrow planks at the Morgue in Paris, with a coat thrown over it—Harper's Weekly.

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TURKISH HAREM

(ILLUSTRATED)
By VAHAN CARDASHIAN
Author of "The Ottoman Empire of the
XXth Century."

"The teller shall dwell amidst gardens and pleasures, and it shall be said unto him, 'Eat and drink with ease and ease, and the Lord will espouse them unto virginity with large black eyes.'—MOHAMMED."

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NEW METHOD

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